

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: **Itaru HONMA, et al.**

Serial No.: **Not Yet Assigned**

Filed: **January 8, 2002**

For: **PROTON-CONDUCTING MEMBRANE, METHOD FOR PRODUCING THE SAME,
AND FUEL CELL USING THE SAME**

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

January 8, 2002

Sir:

Prior to the calculation of the filing fees of the above application, please amend the application
as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 13, 15, and 26 as follows:

13. (Amended) The proton-conducting membrane according to Claim 11, wherein said heteropoly acid is a compound selected from the group consisting of tungstophosphoric, molybdophosphoric and tungstosilicic acid.

15. (Amended) A method for producing the proton-conducting membrane of Claims 1 to 3, comprising steps of preparing a mixture of a carbon-containing compound (D) having one or more hydrolyzable silyl groups and said inorganic acid (C), forming the above mixture into a film, and hydrolyzing/condensing the hydrolyzable silyl group contained in the mixture formed into the film, to form said three-dimensionally crosslinked silicon-oxygen structure (A).

26. (Amended) A fuel cell which incorporates the proton-conducting membrane of Claims 1 to 3.

REMARKS

The above amendments to the claims have been made to place the application in better condition for examination.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

In the event there are any additional fees required, please charge our Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 13, 15, and 26 have been amended as follows:

13. The proton-conducting membrane according to Claim 11 ~~or 12~~, wherein said heteropoly acid is a compound selected from the group consisting of tungstophosphoric, molybdophosphoric and tungstosilicic acid.

15. A method for producing the proton-conducting membrane of ~~one of Claims 1 to 14~~ Claims 1 to 3, comprising steps of preparing a mixture of a carbon-containing compound (D) having one or more hydrolyzable silyl groups and said inorganic acid (C), forming the above mixture into a film, and hydrolyzing/condensing the hydrolyzable silyl group contained in the mixture formed into the film, to form said three-dimensionally crosslinked silicon-oxygen structure (A).

26. A fuel cell which incorporates the proton-conducting membrane according to one of Claims 1 to ~~14~~ 3.